The Waterloo Region District School Board held a Board Meeting this evening at 7:00 p.m. via video conference, with the following members in attendance: S. Piatkowski (Chairperson), J. Herring, K. Meissner, C. Millar, M. Ramsay, L. Tremble, C. Watson, J. Weston, C. Whetham and K. Woodcock.

Trustee K. Smith was unable to attend this evening's meeting.

Student Trustees K. Soror and N. Vishkin were in attendance.

The following senior administration members were in attendance: j. chanicka (Director of Education and Secretary), D. Ahluwalia, J. Albrecht, R. DeBoer, E. Dougan-McKenzie, M. Gerard, E. Giannopoulos, C. Hill, P. Kaur, D. Lataille-Herdsman, B. Lemon, S. Miller, L. Read and G. Shantz.

Other staff in attendance: R. Lam and S. Reidel.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson S. Piatkowski called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Moved by C. Millar, seconded by J. Weston:

That the agenda of the March 28, 2022, Board Meeting be approved.

-Carried-

CONSENT AGENDA

2. Moved by J. Herring, seconded by C. Millar:

That the consent agenda of the Board Meeting of March 28, 2022, and the actions contained therein, be approved.

-Carried-

MOTIONS FROM IN CAMERA MEETING

Note: The following motions were approved in the In Camera session held earlier this evening.

A. Moved by K. Woodcock, seconded by J. Weston:

That the agenda of the March 28, 2022, In Camera Board Meeting be deemed to meet the legislative requirements for discussion in camera with the addition of Supervisory Officer Qualified Applicant process to Staffing.

-Carried-

B. Moved by L. Tremble, seconded by J. Herring:

That the consent agenda of the March 28, 2022, In Camera Board Meeting and the actions contained therein, be approved.

-Carried-

C. Moved by J. Herring, seconded by C. Whetham:

That we rise and report in public session.

-Carried-

Note: This concludes the reporting of In Camera motions.

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/CELEBRATING BOARD ACTIVITIES

Chairperson S. Piatkowski shared regrets from Trustee K. Smith.

APPOINTMENT OF STUDENT TRUSTEES FOR 2022-2023

Trustees K. Meissner and C. Millar updated trustees on the results of the Student Trustee Elections. The Student Trustees for 2022-2023 will be Vaishnave Raina and Kenzy Soror.

Trustee M. Ramsay joined the meeting at 7:06 p.m.

FURTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Student Trustee K. Soror provided trustees with her social media "Now You Know" video interviews with student advocates for equity and inclusion.

Trustee C. Watson shared an update about her visit to a Grade 9 de-streamed math class. She shared her excitement about the learning environment and student engagement.

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT GOOD NEWS UPDATE

Interim Chief Communications Officer E. Dougan-McKenzie provided a Good News Update including stories from the classroom, stories of student voice and perspectives from the Education Centre. She reviewed this month's web traffic, social media and traditional media mentions.

REPORTS

LIFTING OF COVID-19 HEALTH & SAFETY MEASURES

Associate Director L. Read commenced the presentation with an overview of recent announcements and changes. Coordinating Superintendent G. Shantz reviewed the conclusion of vaccination disclosures and the removal of masking and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) requirements. Coordinating Superintendent M. Gerard reviewed the continued plans for hand hygiene, cleaning and ventilation. He also provided an update on vaccination clinics and Community Use of Schools. Associate Director L. Read provided an update on Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs). Superintendent B. Lemon reviewed the ending to cohorting, social distancing and confirmation of screening. He also provided an update on absence reporting, guidance for symptomatic staff and students and case and contact management. Associate Director L. Read noted that some families supported through short-term virtual learning have returned to in-person learning while others requested to transition to remote learning. Staff are working with families to accommodate their needs. Associate Director L. Read concluded the presentation with a reflection of gratitude.

Student Trustee K. Soror left the meeting.

Trustees asked questions regarding health and safety requirements for international travellers, staff masks, case management, access to Rapid Antigen Tests and grade 6 and 8 year-end celebrations.

Director j. chanicka wrapped up the discussion noting that staff understand that COVID-19 is still present in the community and that staff will continue to follow the directions provided by the provincial government.

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

The Board received the following communications:

- Lakehead District School Board to Thunder Bay Medical Officer of Health
- Waterloo Region DSB to Minister of Education and Chief Medical Officer of Health
- Chief Medical Officer of Health Response to Waterloo Region District School Board

QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items.

ADJOURNMENT

4. Moved by K. Woodcock, seconded by J. Weston:

That the Board Meeting of March 28, 2022, be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.